

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Jalinne Iriarte and I am a resident of Bristol, Connecticut. I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

I am currently a DACA recipient and proud daughter of an immigrant. At the moment my family and I are very blessed to not have any health concerns, but at any moment that can change. My mother has been in the states for 23 years and never had health insurance. As a single woman and a business owner, in order for her business to run properly she has to go to work everyday. Getting sick and staying at home to rest has never been an option. Luckily, she has never been in a more serious situation where she has needed to take some time off, but as she gets older it makes me worry for our families future. Her business pays for daily life expenses and if lucky some is left for savings. An unexpected serious health issue, without health insurance, can be detrimental to not only her but all of us.

She is not the only one who is uninsured in our home, I also don't have health insurance. At the age of 25, trying to grow my own career and making just enough to pay for my bills, it's not possible for me to save money for an unexpected injury, surgery or medicine. Simple things like eye doctor appointments, teeth cleaning and a visit to my obgyn is paid out of pocket, and unfortunately if I don't have enough to pay, I go years without a routine check up.

Having health insurance means a peace of mind. It means not feeling anxious that one day we will go bankrupt and lose our home. It means being healthy and staying healthy with more frequent check ups that are affordable. Something as simple as having health insurance can save lives and it's something that every human should have a right to. I strongly support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Jalinne Iriarte